

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A device for manufacturing a flexible continuous printing blanket comprising:
    - a base;
    - an application layer located directly on the base;
    - a polymer applicator applying a polymer layer over the flexible application layer so as to form a flexible sleeve, at least one of the application layer and the polymer layer being an innermost layer of the flexible sleeve; and
    - a print layer applicator applying a print layer over the flexible sleeve.
  2. The device as recited in claim 1 further comprising a compressible layer applicator located between the polymer layer and print layer applicators.
  3. The device as recited in claim 1 wherein the application layer includes a quick-release tape, the sleeve being formed solely from the polymer layer.
  4. The device as recited in claim 1 wherein the application layer is made of a flexible polymer, the sleeve being formed of both the application layer and the polymer layer.
  5. The device as recited in claim 1 wherein the application layer includes TEFLON.
  6. The device as recited in claim 1 wherein the polymer layer is made from urethane.
  7. The device as recited in claim 1 wherein the sleeve has a hardness of at least 70 Shore A.
  8. The device as recited in claim 1 wherein the base rotates.

9. The device as recited in claim 8 wherein the application layer is made of a pre-fabricated tape that wraps around the rotating base.

10. The device as recited in claim 1 wherein the base includes a plurality of rotating and translating slats.

11. A method for forming a tubular printing blanket comprising the steps of:

applying an application layer to a base;

applying a polymer over the application layer so as to form a flexible inner tubular sleeve, at least one of the application layer and the polymer being an innermost layer of the tubular sleeve; and

applying a print layer over the tubular sleeve.

12. The method as recited in claim 11 further comprising forming a compressible layer over the flexible tubular sleeve and under the print layer.

13. The method as recited in claim 11 further comprising removing the application layer from the polymer, the polymer forming the innermost layer of the tubular sleeve.

14. The method as recited in claim 11 further comprising applying the application layer by winding a tape around the base.

15. The method as recited in claim 11 further comprising rotating the base.

16. The method as recited in claim 11 further comprising compressing the printing blanket so that two different circumferential points of an inner surface of the sleeve when round contact each other.

17. An offset printing blanket comprising:

a flexible and collapsible inner sleeve made of polymeric material, the sleeve being the innermost layer of the blanket; and

a print layer disposed over the flexible inner sleeve.

18. The printing blanket as recited in claim 17 further comprising a compressible layer disposed between the print layer and the inner sleeve.

19. The printing blanket as recited in claim 17 wherein the flexible inner sleeve is made of urethane.

20. The printing blanket as recited in claim 17 wherein the flexible inner sleeve has a hardness of at least 70 Shore A.